

WASHINGTON TIMES
4 June 1984

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1

Soviets reportedly are jamming U.S. satellites used as monitors

By Walter Andrews
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. intelligence indicates that the Soviet Union has begun jamming American satellites used for monitoring Soviet nuclear missile tests and verifying compliance with arms control agreements, government sources say. Apparently using information provided by convicted U.S. spies, the Soviets have indicated their intent to block verification when possible, the sources said. The satellites would be one of the main means of verifying the terms of any new arms control agreement.

President Reagan in January charged the Soviets with violating a previous arms control provision against interfering with verification by encoding or encrypting the missile test data being telemetered to ground stations. Among other things, the information provides data on the number of warheads tested on a particular type of missile, which is used to set missile warhead limits in an agreement.

The government sources told The Washington Times that the Soviets have now

begun jamming the telemetry monitoring satellites to prevent even the gathering of the encrypted data for possible decoding later.

They said the jamming has been electronically precise, and apparently has taken advantage of the technical data reportedly provided to the Soviets by convicted spies Andrew Daulton Lee and Christopher John Boyce in 1977 on the Rhyolite and Argus satellites.

The satellite jamming began last year after the Soviets shot down a South Korean airliner in September, the sources said. U.S. intelligence also indicates the jamming is deliberate in that it had only occurred during missile flight tests. The sources could not say why the Soviets waited until recently to utilize the Rhyolite satellite data provided by the spies.

Shortly after the KAL 007 disaster, the sources said, the Soviets also began jamming radars for monitoring the path taken by a Soviet missile and multiple warheads during flight tests.

The so-called "Cobra" radars using sophisticated phased-array, electronic scanning operate out of the Aleutian islands.